



DAY 3:

Camping in the rain

When we got to the campsite, we put our tent up and unpacked our bags. Once everything was ready, we walked down to the nearest village. There was only one bar. It sold bread and cheese and fruit and served big bowls of hot soup. We bought some fruit for the morning before sitting down to eat our soup. As soon as we sat down, it started to rain — and it rained and rained! After eating, we played a game of cards and waited until the rain had finally stopped. By the time we got back to the campsite, the sky had cleared and there was not a cloud in sight. But when we got to our tent, we couldn't believe our eyes. It was completely flooded! We spent the night in the reception block!

Presentation

Use time conjunctions such as *after*, *when* and *before* to connect two sentences and explain how they are related by time:

We got to the campsite. We put our tent up. → *We put our tent up **when** we got to the campsite.*

When the time clause is at the beginning of the sentence, you need a comma between it and the main clause:

***When we got to the campsite**, we put the tent up.*

after, when, as soon as, once

Use *after*, *when*, *as soon as* and *once* to introduce the first action to happen in a series of actions:

***After / When / As soon as / Once** we got to the campsite, we put up the tent.*

action 1 = arrive action 2 = put up the tent

You usually use the past simple with *when*: *When we **arrived** at the campsite ...*

With *after*, *as soon as* and *once*, you can also use the past perfect: *After / As soon as / Once **we'd arrived** ...*

before, until, by the time

Use *before*, *until* and *by the time* to introduce the second action in a series of actions:

*We bought some fruit **before** we sat down to eat.*

action 1 = buy fruit action 2 = sit down

Until shows that the first action stops just before the second action starts:

*We waited **until** the rain stopped / had stopped.*

You do not normally use *until* at the beginning of a sentence.

By the time shows that the first action takes place at an unspecified time before the second action:

*The sky had cleared **by the time** we'd got back to the campsite.* (We don't know exactly when the sky cleared.)

You normally use the past simple with *before*. You can use either the past simple or the past perfect with *until* and *by the time*: *We waited **until** it **stopped** / **had stopped** raining. **By the time** we **got** there / **had got** there, it **had stopped** raining.*

after / before + -ing

You can also form time phrases using *after* or *before* followed by verb + *-ing*:

*After we ate ... → **After eating**, ...*

Only use the *-ing* form when the subject of the verb is the same for both phrases:

*After we **had eaten**, we **played** cards.* (The subject is the same.) → *After **eating**, we **played** cards.*

*After we **had eaten**, the barman **invited** us to a game of cards.* (The *-ing* form is not possible without changing the meaning.)

Exercises

1 Add the conjunctions in brackets to the sentences.

- 1 ^{When} I got home, the first thing I did was have a quick shower. (when)
- 2 I checked my emails I started making some food. (before)
- 3 I'd seen that there were no messages for me, I started preparing supper. (once)
- 4 I waited the pasta had cooked, then I switched on the TV. (until)
- 5 I had finished watching the news, I started writing my blog. (as soon as)

2 Combine the two sentences using the time linker in brackets.

- 1 We checked the train times carefully. We left for the concert. (before)
We checked the train times carefully before we left for the concert. / Before we left for the concert, we checked the train times carefully.
- 2 It was getting late. Our train arrived at the station. (by the time)

- 3 We got off the train. We ran to the bus stop. (as soon as)

- 4 We were on the bus. We texted the others to tell them we were on our way. (once)

- 5 We finally got there. We found out that the concert had been cancelled. (when)

3 Rewrite the clauses in bold using the *-ing* form where possible.

- 1 **Before she left the house**, she closed all the windows and switched off all the lights.
Before leaving the house, ...
- 2 **After they left**, we cleaned the house and prepared for our next guests.
-ing form not possible
- 3 **After we'd left our bags at the hostel**, we decided to take a walk around the city centre.

- 4 **Before he plays an important match**, he always checks that he's got his lucky socks.

- 5 **After the storm had finished**, the streets were covered in water and fallen trees.

- 6 **Before she left home and moved into her own flat**, she shared a bedroom with her sister.

4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.

- 1 As soon as I got home yesterday, _____.
- 2 When the alarm rang this morning, _____.
- 3 I always _____ before going to bed.
- 4 I usually _____ after doing sport.